



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Las Vegas Field Office
4701 N. Torrey Pines Drive
Las Vegas, Nevada 89130-2301
<http://www.nv.blm.gov>



In Reply Refer To:

May 5, 2006

Dear Sir/Madam:

You are invited to attend an open house/discussion regarding management of the Rainbow Mountain and La Madre Mountain Wilderness areas. The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and US Forest Service (USFS) are holding this meeting as the first step in preparing a Wilderness Management Plan for these two areas which are jointly managed by the BLM and USFS. The plan will guide future management of the two Wilderness areas. The Rainbow Mountain and La Madre Mountain Wilderness areas were designated by congress through the Clark County Conservation of Public Lands and Natural Resources Act of 2002 (please see attached map).

A Wilderness is an area that has been designated by the United States Congress to be managed in such a way as to retain its wilderness character. Wilderness areas are places that are untrammelled and retain their primeval character and influence. They are areas where primitive forms of recreation and solitude can be experienced. They are closed to motorized vehicles, mechanized equipment, and bicycles. Issues frequently addressed in Wilderness plans include natural and cultural resource protection, trails, trailheads, camping, rock climbing, opportunities for solitude, appropriate visitor use levels, resource restoration and wildfire management.

The BLM and USFS will be holding these initial public open house/discussion sessions as part of this planning effort. These sessions will provide an opportunity for you to become informed about the Rainbow Mountain and La Madre Mountain Wilderness areas and the planning process. You will be invited to share your knowledge of the area and your ideas on how these areas should be managed. The sessions will begin with a short introductory presentation. There will then be an opportunity for you to look at maps and other displays about the Wilderness areas and to have one-on-one discussions with agency staff about your ideas. You are welcome to come to the open houses any time between 6 pm and 8 pm, but please be there by 6 pm if you would like to see the presentation. The locations and times are as follows:

- May 18, 6 pm -8 pm, Boy Scout Camp at Mountain Springs
- May 23, 6 pm to 8 pm, quonset hut at Blue Diamond
- May 30, 6 pm to 8 pm, BLM/USFS office at 4701 N. Torrey Pines Dr., Las Vegas

If you do not attend one of the meetings, you may also communicate your ideas about management of the Wildernesses by:

- sending a letter to the address above
- sending an e-mail to lvwilderness@nv.blm.gov
- contacting James Sippel of the BLM at (702) 515-5131 or Connie Moen of the USFS at (702) 839-5562.

Please submit your input by June 30, 2006.

Subsequent steps in the planning process will include:

1. A preliminary proposed action will be developed. You will be sent the preliminary proposed action and a summary of the ideas and issues that have been received by the agency to date. You will be asked to communicate to the agencies any issues, ideas or concerns you may have with the preliminary proposed action. An open house will be held where you will have an opportunity to discuss the preliminary proposed action with agency staff. This step begins the formal National Environmental Policy Act scoping process.
2. Issues you and others may have with the preliminary proposed action will assist in the development of alternative actions. The effects of these alternatives will be analyzed in an Environmental Assessment (EA)/draft Wilderness Management Plan. You will be sent a copy of this document and asked to comment on it.
3. From the information provided in the EA/draft Management Plan and your comments, the BLM and USFS managers will select an alternative (or mix of alternatives) in a Decision Notice. You will be sent a copy of this decision document.

To remain on the project mailing list for future communications related to this planning project, please attend one of the open houses or contact us through one of the 3 methods listed above.

Thank you for your interest in the Rainbow Mountain and La Madre Mountain Wilderness areas. If you would like additional information or have questions, please feel free to contact James Sippel or Connie Moen.

Sincerely,

Robert Taylor
Assistant Field Manager

Enclosures: map of La Madre Mountain and Rainbow Mountain Wilderness Areas, public participation form, map of meeting locations.